

DOCKET SECTION

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
Docket No. R97-1
SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF
DOUGLAS F. CARLSON
(DFC/USPS-9)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the response to the following interrogatory of Douglas F. Carlson: DFC/USPS-9, filed on October 20, 1997. This response is filed late because of difficulties experienced in obtaining responsive information from a client previously uninvolved in the ratemaking process.

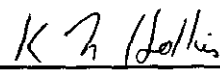
The interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
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November 6, 1997

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORY
OF DOUGLAS F. CARLSON

DFC/USPS-9. For post offices that communicate to customers the time of day by which mail will be distributed to post office boxes, please provide all directives, policies, documents, or other information relating to the audit procedures or monitoring that the Postal Service conducts to ensure that these post offices normally complete distribution of the mail to the post office boxes by the stated cutoff time.

RESPONSE:

As indicated in the responses to DFC/USPS-7 and 8, the Postal Service has no standard for completing distribution of all mail to post office boxes. As such, there is no national system auditing or monitoring such distribution. As indicated in the response to DFC/USPS-7, routine reviews of postal operations may generate recommendations that can affect an office, including the time by which First-Class Mail is scheduled to be placed in post office boxes.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Postal Service is in the process of rolling out a system that monitors whether respective facilities meet their box cut off times. The following guidelines apply to the collection of this information.

Box Section: Each unit has a scheduled and posted time for box mail to be finalized and available to the customers. For reporting purposes a unit's performance is considered to be "on time" only if the box mail is finalized no later than the scheduled and posted "box cut off" time. If a unit consistently fails to meet the box cut off time, analysis should be done to review possible actions to help the unit meet the cut off time. If corrective action is not effective, consideration should be given to moving the box cut off time. **NOTE: The box cut off time will vary from unit to unit based on local conditions.**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.

K N Hollies

Kenneth N. Hollies

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